

THE REHEARSAL.

1. *The Necessity of a Divine Right in Government. No Divine Right in the Pretences of the Whiggs and Heathens. Tho' they Confirm it.*
2. *Some Account of the Heathens Deifying their Kings.*
3. *The Original of Government was among the Angels in Heaven.*
4. *And what the Rebellion of Lucifer was.*

From Saturday August the 4th, to Saturday August the 11th. 1705.

(1.) *Country-m.* **Y**OU have given me full satisfaction, *Master*, as to the Weak

Pretence of the Popular Orators, to any Divine Right in the People, either towards the Foundation, or Alteration of Government. You have shew'd how it is Exploded in *H. Scripture*, as the Principle of *Belial*, who has Infill'd it into Mankind, under the Notion of Asserting their Liberty. Which is, their Liberty from the Institution of God. All of whom that are thus Perswaded, are, as the *H. Scripture* calls them, *Sons of Belial*. And Directly *Rebell* against God, that is against His Institution.

You have shew'd, That a Divine Right is Necessary to Found and Support GOVERNMENT among Men. And the Pretence of the People to it, is a strong Confirmation of it; And shews, That even in their own Sense, a Divine Right is Necessary.

The Pretence of the Heathen is likewise a Great Confirmation of this. But their Plea of their Laws having been Given from Heaven, and their Kings being Begotten by Gods, is Fable and Superstition; And their Deifying and Worshipping their Kings was Wild Idolatry.

These Dishonour the Great God; And the Fox Populi Crucify'd Christ.

Therefore I have Done with them. I'm sure there can be no Divine Right here.

But now, *Master*, where shall we find it? When did Government Begin? And by whom? That we may know whether its Original was Divine, or not. I want some Instruction in these things.

(2.) But before you give me an Answer to this, pray tell me, Were these Heathens such Dots, such Silly fellows, as to believe their Kings, whom they saw Dye before their Eyes, to be all God Almighty? I have heard much of the Wisdom of the Heathen, and of the Fame of their Philosophers.

Rehears. They were Wise Men, and not such Dots as you Imagine. They Acknowledg'd one Supreme Being Sovereign over all. And spoke as great things of Him as we can. This Supreme God they call'd *Jupiter*. Tho' sometimes they gave even that Name, in High Flattery, to some of their Kings; with Distinction of *Jupiter* of this or that Place. But then they Imagin'd that this Supreme God, Deputed Others under Him to Govern in their Several Provinces, as *Adols* to Command the

Winds, *Neptune* the Sea, *Vulcan* the Fire, and so forth. These they call'd *Dii Medioximi*, Lesser Gods, who stood in the Middle betwixt the Supreme God and Men, and Govern'd Under Him, and over Them.

Then they had their Tutelar Gods and their Lares, and Genius's, who they suppos'd Presided over such and such Countries, Cities, Families, and particular Persons.

Now it was among these Lesser Gods that they Rang'd their Kings, who had liv'd Vertuously, and done Great things for them. And indeed their Gods, as *Bacchus*, *Neptune*, *Hercules* and Others, were Men that had been Deify'd, after their Deaths, for Remarkable things that they had done; of which their Stories still reman in the Heathen Authors.

But they had not so Foolish a Thought, as, That they cou'd make a Man to become the Supreme Being, which he was not Before their Apotheosis, or Declaring him a God.

Your Wonder at the Heathen will Abate, when you see Kings Call'd Gods in *H. Scripture*. I have said Ye are Gods. And Revile not the Gods, nor speak Evil of the Ruler of the People. And Our B. Saviour gives the Reason, why they are call'd Gods, because Unto them the Word (that is the Commission of God) Came to be the Rulers of the People. Joh. x. 35. And they who Bear GOD's Office, by Commission from Him, Bear likewise His Name. And Christ own'd the Power of Pilate against Himself, to be Given him from Heaven. Joh. xix. 11.

Country-m. This Strikes Us with Great Astonishment! This Raises the Character of King Very High indeed! That they stand before Us, in the Person of the GREAT GOD Himself. And are Gods to Us. And can the People Create Gods! Are Kings Call'd any where in Scripture the Anointed of the People, or the Deputies, Vice-Gerents, or Substitutes of the People? No. They are Call'd GODS Anointed, and HIS Vice-Gerents. So that to Rebell against Them, is to Rebell against the Most High GOD, who has made them Gods. They are the Ordinance of God, therefore to Resist them is to Resist the Ordinance of God, and is Pronounc'd to be Damnation. Rom. xiii. 2. and therefore, That we must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for Conscience sake.

All this is now very Plain to me, and the Authority Undenyable. But still, *Master*, I would have you help me into the Fact, to see How, and Where, and by Whom this thing call'd Government was first Instituted. That we may

may view it from its very *Original*; and so Deduce it downwards to Us at this Day. For though we are Oblig'd to give Absolute *Credence* to what is Deliver'd in *Holy Scripture*, that *Government* is the *Ordinance* of God; yet if the *Fact* Appears Plain to Us, it *Confirms* Us the more, and makes us submit to the *Authority* with Greater *Alacrity*, *Conviction* of *Reason*.

(3.) *Rehears*. What you Desire of Me, is an *History* of *Government* from the Beginning. Wherein we shall have Occasion to mention that of *Rebellion* also.

And for the *Original* of Both of these, we must go as High as *Heaven*. For There they Both began.

When God Created the *Angels*, He distributed them into an *Hierarchy* of Higher and Lower *Orders*. He made *Angels*, *Arch-Angels*, *Cherubims*, *Seraphims*, *Dominations*, *Principalities*, *Powers*, &c.

Country-m. Was there *Government* among these? What need of *Government* before there was *Sin*? *Government* and *Laws* are made to *Restrain* the *Wicked*. But where there are no *Wicked*, there needs no *Government* or *Laws*.

Rehears. There are other Ends of *Government* besides *Restraining* of *Wickedness*. There can be no *Order* without *Government*. The words *Principalities*, and *Powers* imply *Government*. They are *Government*, there can be no *Principality* or *Power* without *Government*. *Heaven* and *Earth* are call'd one *Family*, of which *Christ* the *Head*. Eph. 3 15. There can be no *Family* and a *Head* without *Government*. It is said Eph. 1 21. That *Christ* is Exalted far above all *PRINCIPALITY*, and *POWER*, and *MIGHT*, and *DOMINION*, not only in this *World*, but also in that which is to Come. So that here you see there is *Dominion*, that is, *Government* in *Heaven*. And there is no *Sin* there now.

Country-m. This is Clear. Now, *Master*, go on.

(4.) *Rehears*. The *Hierarchy* or *Government* in *Heaven* having been Establish'd by God from the Beginning, a *Principal Post* of very High *Dignity* was Assign'd to *Lucifer*. But he not being content with his own *Principality*, Aspir'd Higher. And so broke in upon the *Hierarchy*.

Country-m. How do's this appear? I thought *Lucifer* had Design'd to be *GOD*. And had made an *Attack* upon *HIM*, to Depose *HIM*, and *Reign* in *HIS* Stead.

Rehears. The *Person* of God is far Exalted above the Attempts of *Angels*, as well as *Men*. And to *Invade* His *Person* is a Thought too foolish for a *Man*, much more for an *Angel* of *Heaven*. The *Sin* of *Lucifer* and his *Angels* was Aspiring to a Higher *Rank* in the *Hierarchy* than that in which God had Plac'd them. And so was an immediate *Revolt* from under the *Government* of their Superior *Angels*. But in Consequence, it was a *Rebellion* against God, who had Instituted those *Orders* of *Angels*. There is no other way of *Rebelling* against God, but by *Opposing* His *Institutions*. For, as I said, His *Person* is not only Above the *Reach*, but out of the *Sight*, and above the *Understandings* of *Angels*, as well as of *Men*.

Hence likewise will follow, That there is no *Rebellion* whatever but against God. For all *Order* and *Government* on *Earth* as well as in *Heaven* (as we shall see in the Sequel of this Inquiry) being the *Positive Institution* of God, Consequently all *Disobedience* to *Government*, or *Rising* up against it, is a *Rebellion* against God the *Institutor*. As *Moses* said to *Korah*, What is *AARON* that ye *Murmure* against him? Your *Rebellion* is against the *Lord*. Num. xvi. 11. As if a *Servant* *Mutiny* against his *Fellow-Servant*, and will not *Obeys* the *Orders* of the *Steward*, his *Rebellion* is against the *Master* of the *Family*. And the Consequence, if suffer'd to go on, must Prove the *Dissolution* of the *Family*. And so may be said to be an Attempt against the *Master* himself.

Country-m. But how do's it Appear, That the *Rebellion* of *Lucifer* and his *Angels* was for an Higher *Rank* in the *Hierarchy* of *Heaven* than was Allotted them?

Rehears. *St. Jude* tells Us, Ver. 6. The *Angels* who kept not their first *Estate* (or *Principality* as our *Margin* Reads it, the word is *Ἀρχὴ*, which signifies *Government*) but left their own *Habitation* (ἐκινήσαν that *House* or *Station* Allotted them) He hath Reserv'd in Everlasting *Chains*, under *Darkness*, unto the *Judgment* of the great *Day*. Where their not keeping to their first *Estate* or *Station*, is nam'd as their *Crime*. The *Reserving* in *Chains*, &c. is the *Punishment* for that *Crime*.

The like Description is given *Isai*. xiv. 12. How art thou fallen from *Heaven*, O *LUCIFER*, Son of the *Morning*—For thou hast said in thine *Heart*, I will Exalt my *Throne* above the *Stars* of *God*—I will be like the most High. This was spoke of the *King* of *Babylon*, by way of *Allusion* to the *Pride* of *Lucifer*. Which was only to be Like the Most High. Not to *Dis-throne* Him. But to be Above the *Stars*, that is, the *Angels* of *God*. As the *Bishops* of the *Church* are call'd *Stars* and *Angels*. Rev. 1 20. The seven *Stars* are the *Angels* of the *Churches*.

Gregory the Great, *Bishop* of *Rome*, who Dy'd in the 7th *Century*, Apply'd this Text of *Isaiah* to *John* then *Bishop* of *Constantinople*, who was the First that set up for *Universal Bishop*; Telling him, That the *Bishops* of the *Church* were the *Stars* of *God*; And by his seeking to Advance his *Throne* above all these, he bid Imitate the *Pride* of *Lucifer*.

What *Isaiah* call'd *Stars*, *Ezekiel* calls *Stones* of *Fire*, and makes the like *Allusion* to Describe the *Pride* of the *King* of *Tyrus*. Thou art the Anointed *Cherub*. Thou wast upon the *Holy Mountain* of *God*; Thou hast Walked up and down in the midst of the *Stones* of *Fire*—Thine *Heart* was lifted up because of thy *Beauty*, thou hast Corrupted thy *Wisdom* by *Reason* of thy *Brightness*. Ezek. xxviii. 14, 17.

Country-m. I am satisfy'd, That *Government* was first Instituted in *Heaven*, among the *Angels* of *God*. And that the first *Sin* was the *Revolt* of *Lucifer* and his *Rebel-Angels*, to the *Disturbance* of that *Hierarchy*, appointed by *God*.

At our Next Meeting, I hope you will shew me, How *Government* began upon *Earth* among *Men*. And thence go on to shew the *Deduction* of it, from that *Beginning*, to this *Day*. Which if you can Perform with *Clearness*, it will be of Great use to the *World*; but to no *Place* more than our *England*.